

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – February 2012  
By the Board of County Commissioners “Board”

Garrett County Airport

1. Review of current year fuel sales, operation report to include air traffic counts, year-to-date profit loss statements, and developing a long-term airport improvement plan.
2. Announcement/Update of plans for 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GC Appreciation Day in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GC Airport – Wings and Wheels Fly-In Celebration that is scheduled for August 11, 2012.

Department of Economic Development

1. An update of broadband connectivity in GC.
2. The Board approved a line of credit advance for Adventure Sports Center International in the amount of \$50,000. This request was due to employee payroll, capital expenditures, and emergency cash flow requirements in advance of the opening of the 2012 season.
3. Discussion relative to utilizing ARC TEA 21 LAR and ARC Area Development funds for the McHenry Business Park (MBP) Access Road Project and the Glendale Road Realignment Project. The Board agreed that the MBP Access Road Project is the top priority.

Department of Financial Services

A request for amendment to the collections of hotel rental tax statute that was presented by Wisp Resort. The Board agreed to submit a request for legislation that would add GC to existing legislation that will be effective July 1, 2012 to add to Article 24, Section 9-301 (f)(2) that in Frederick County, Washington County and (adding) GC, “transient charge” means a hotel charge for sleeping accommodations for a period not exceeding 30 days.

Department of Planning & Land Development

1. A Land Use Management Work Session was scheduled for 02/14/12.
2. Review of a letter from DNR asking for comments on a proposed purchase of property. This property is the James Shank Property, SPM 68, Grid 21, parcel 20, ID #1-005766, 71.97 acres for \$500,000. The Board will take no position or submit any comments.

Department of Public Safety & Emergency Management

Allegany County Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department Chief Bobby Ritchie met with the Board relative to a boundary dispute with Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire Department. A letter was sent to the Department from the Emergency Services Advisory Board (ESB) outlining the process for mediating such a dispute that begins with the Garrett County Fire and Rescue Association consistent with Department by-laws and provisions of the ESB legislation. The process for appeal is outlined in the letter to the Department and the Board of County Commissioners has no jurisdiction or authority in this matter.

Department of Public Utilities (DPU)

1. Review of recent petitions from property owners of Silver Ridge Condominiums in opposition to connection to the Thyerville Water System. The petitions received do not meet the requirements of Title 9, Subtitle 652 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of MD. The Code provides that following a public hearing on proposed improvements, the Board shall issue a decision on the proposed project. The public hearing was held and the decision to proceed with the Thyerville Water Project was issued on April 5, 2011. The code further provides that landowners who would be served by the proposed project have the right to petition for a second public hearing. The petition must be signed by at least 25 resident landowners and be filed with the Board within 10 days after the decision is issued. Due to the petition from the Silver Ridge property owners being received after the 10-day filing period, the document does not meet the statute. Chairman Raley suggested that a meeting be scheduled with residents and property owners of the Condominiums and explain. This session will be scheduled. It was noted that the project needs to be bid and approved for construction by the end of March 2012.
2. The Board executed a Memorandum of Agreement between DPU and State of MD Department of the Environment Land Management Administration, Abandoned Mine Land Division for lime dosing station at the Kitzmiller Wastewater Treatment Station.

Roads Department

1. Status of Westernport and Lower New Germany Road. A video showing road damage due to heavy coal haul truck traffic was reviewed and a summary of associated cost for past paving and road repair was presented.

2. Federal Government mandate for radio equipment. Discussion on this FCC requirement to include estimated and associated cost (\$300,000) was presented. GC Financial Services will be evaluating and identifying line item savings within the current budget therefore not adding to additional non-budgeted costs.
3. Review and agreement to proceed with an assessment by the Department of Engineering to include Frank Custer and Rockville Court in the County Roads System. The Board agreed with this proposal.
4. The Board reviewed GC and State Highway Administration (SHA) cost share projects and other County capital project priorities for budget approval.

#### Sheriff's Department

1. Presentation of a recommendation to compensate public safety employees for all annual holidays in a lump sum whereby applicable employees would be paid in advance. This policy revision would greatly improve and save funds. The Board will take this matter under advisement.
2. Presentation of a recommendation that would include law enforcement personnel in the County Government Deferred Compensation Plan. In 2002, these employees were withdrawn from eligibility in the Plan when the Law Enforcement Officers Pension Plan was approved. The Board will also take this matter under advisement with any decision to approve to be part of Fiscal Year 2013 Budget review.

#### Miscellaneous

1. The Board appointed Dorothy Andreas, BJ Gallagher, and Beth Little-Terry to the GC Commission for Women.
2. The Board attended the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department Awards Banquet.
3. The Board attended a Business After Hours meeting @ Clear Mountain Bank.
4. Commissioner Raley attended the Robotics Open House.
5. The Board approved an allocation of \$500 for the 35<sup>th</sup> Grantsville Days.
6. The Board attended the Annual Appreciation Dinner at the Oakland Elks Lodge.
7. The Board reviewed a number of 2012 legislative issues that will have a direct impact on GC.